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Paul also maintains, with many other scholars, that the power of original creation in language is by no means lost, but is as active to-day as ever; and he gives many examples of words of recent origin which he holds to be underived from any others. All original creations, both earlier and later, he believes to be imitative, so that on this point he is directly at issue with many other philologists. These are the fundamental causes of the development of language; but to these must be added analogy, which has a powerful influence by multiplying forms and usages that have arisen in some other way.

Having thus traced the outline of his subject, Professor Paul pursues it into all its ramifications through a series of chapters, which we have not space to analyze here, but which are sure to interest every student of philology. In these days, when there is so much superficial writing, it is pleasant to meet with a book at once so thoughtful and so scholarly as this by Professor Paul; and, though there are things in it that are sure to provoke criticism, it will be of great value to all students of the history of language.

Seraphita. By HONORÉ DE BALZAC. Tr. by Katharine P. Wormeley. Boston, Roberts. 12^o. \$1.50.

THIS work is another of its author's studies in occultism. The leading character in the story, called sometimes Seraphita and sometimes Seraphitus, is intended as an example of the "twin soul" which we are told every one must have in order to attain to supreme felicity. Hence she is represented as acting in some cases like a woman, and in others as a man, though the reader may think that she doesn't act much like either. To make the bisexual quality still more prominent, this "strange being" is represented in her feminine character as inspiring love in a young man, and in his masculine character as awakening the same sentiment in a young woman. She talks grandiloquent nonsense about heaven, hell, prayer, and other themes of that sort, and at last is "translated" to the spiritual world; and so the story comes to an end. As for the story itself, it has very few incidents, and no interest at all except what attaches to its occult "philosophy," if any one can take an interest in that. For our part, we find it repulsive, like every thing else of the same sort; being neither philosophy nor religion, but a mere mass of fiction put forward as truth. Besides the principal story, the book contains two shorter ones of a similar character, which call for no special remark. There is also a long and wordy introduction by G. F. Parsons, which neither adds to nor elucidates the text, and has, so far as we can see, no reason to be.

La Société Française au Dix-septième Siècle. Ed., with notes, by Thomas F. Crane. London and New York, Putnam. 24^o. \$1.50.

THIS book, which is intended primarily for students of French, consists of a large number of extracts giving an account of the new social life that arose in France in the early part of the seventeenth century. Every one knows that society and conversation have long been more important elements in French life than in that of other nations, and have had greater influence on French literature than

on any other. Students of literature and of social life are therefore alike interested in tracing the origin and growth of that society for which France has long been noted, and Professor Crane here offers them help in so doing. He has restricted himself to a portion only of seventeenth-century society, neglecting that of the court entirely, while even some elements of literary society are passed over. The extracts given treat successively of the Hôtel de Rambouillet and the persons who frequented it, of Mademoiselle de Scudéry and her rather pedantic companions, of the affected set who were nicknamed the *Précieuses*, and of the rules of politeness that prevailed in that age. As far as they go, they give a pretty clear view of the society of which they treat, of its follies and foibles, as well as its excellences; and they also show to some extent the growth of literature and the development of literary style. Some passages are almost repulsive from the self-admiration and mutual admiration they exhibit; but these were necessary to give a faithful picture of the times. Professor Crane's introduction gives useful information respecting the leading persons and topics dealt with, and other points of a more special character are treated in the notes. The book is convenient in form, and well printed.

AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

THE July *Atlantic* opens with an article by Miss Preston, giving an account of the last days of Cicero, one of a series which she has been contributing to the *Atlantic*. Professor N. S. Shaler, who is a person to speak with authority, writes about "The Problem of Discipline in Higher Education," which will be read by student and teacher with equal interest. Mr. H. L. Nelson has an article on the "Speaker's Power," not a consideration of the power of oratory, but the power of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Mr. W. H. Downes has an interesting paper on the "Old Masters" which may be seen in New York, and it is surprising to find how large a representation can be seen there. Another article is "Books that have Hindered Me," by Agnes Repplier. So much has been written about books that have helped various people, that Miss Repplier has decided to write about the books that did not help her. Among these she mentions "Sandford and Merton," Milton's "Areopagitica," and the "Heir of Redclyffe." The number closes with a knowing article on "Trotting Races," by H. C. Merwin.

— A. D. F. Randolph & Co. will publish at once the Duke of Argyll's work entitled "What is Truth?"

— J. S. Ogilvie has just ready, in his Fireside Series, "The History of the Great Flood at Johnstown, Penn."

— D. Appleton & Co. will publish immediately "Days Out of Doors," by Charles C. Abbott, author of "A Naturalist's Rambles;" "The History of a Slave," a startling picture of slavery in the Barbary States, by H. H. Johnston; and an interesting work on "Stellar Evolution and its Relations to Geological Time," by James Croll.

"Yours, Merrily," Marshall P. Wilder.

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